

THE RIO NEWS.

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NUMBER 4

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Subscribed capital £1,500,000
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RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

—The President of Argentina has vetoed the bill authorizing bull-fights in Buenos Aires.
 —It is said that 30,000 persons have died from small-pox in Chili during the last ten years.

—The Uruguayan government has forwarded to Rio the documents in the case regarding the arrest and had treatment of a citizen of that country at Quararim, in Rio Grande do Sul.
 —It is proposed to call out on March 15th the Argentine national guards who are 20 years of age, for 60 days' service. There will be about 24,000 of them and they, with 8,000 troops of the line, will form two army corps.

—About the middle of next month the British cruiser *Flores* may be expected to arrive in these waters to relieve H. M. S. *Retribution*, whose commission on the South Atlantic station expires. —*Times*, Buenos Aires.

—The population of Buenos Aires on November 30th was estimated to have been 733,034. During the month of November there were 2,123 births, 373 marriages and 1,592 deaths. The excess of arrivals of passengers and immigrants over the departures was 9,602.

—Our Buenos Aires contemporary, *The Southern Cross*, has radically modified its make-up, being now published as a 20-page sheet of the size of *The News*. It is a convenient and attractive modification, and will contribute still more to the popularity of our goodhead comrade.

—A Buenos Aires telegram says that the Chilean journals are unanimous in demanding that the boundary question shall be at once submitted to arbitration, or that preparations for war should be made. In our opinion the journalists of both countries should be ordered to the frontier to fight it out by themselves.

—There was considerable excitement in Buenos Aires some days ago over a report that Chilean troops had occupied the frontier fort of Maipú. An Argentine cavalry regiment was sent to investigate, and after travelling 90 leagues in nine days the commander found the fort occupied by a party of bandits, which he disbanded. The Argentine alarmists should now take a rest.

—The principal shipments from the port of Bahia Blanca, Argentina, during 1897 were: 16,187 tons of wheat, 10,721 hectolitres salt, 1,120 bales jerked beef, 652 tons sheepskins, 15,777 bales wool, 100 tons hides, 518 casks tallow, and about 100 tons sundries. The custom's revenue exceeded £ by \$28,000 gold and \$50,000 paper money the receipts of the previous year.

—Mr. Joaquin Tamborini, a French traveller, recently returned to Buenos Aires from an interesting ten months' trip through Paraguay, having given most attention to the Apá River district on the Brazilian frontier. He says that land in that district is splendid, there being owned some three hundred leagues by the Société Foncière de Paraguay, managed by M. C. d'Anvers. Coffee-growing is carried on there on an extensive scale.

—The killings in the River Plate and Rio Grande valleys up to the 31st of December compare with previous years are as follows:—

	1897	1896	1895
Buenos Aires	47,200	100,000	37,000
Rivers	23,000	54,000	40,000
Montevideo	34,200	123,500	95,100
Rio Grande	2,000	37,000	—
	126,700	317,000	199,100

—We must frankly confess that what little faith we might have had left in the national statistical department has received during the past few days a very rude shock, and we very much doubt if we have any left in it at all. Last week we made a few comparisons between the French and Argentine statistics, and our colleague the *Hambur. Zeitung* has now taken up the cudgels against the department, and compares the returns of the German statistical department with those of the department over which Mr. Latzina rules supreme. According to the German statistics during the past four years the imports from Argentina have amounted to 75 millions marks, whereas the Argentine statistics only place the amount at 113 millions marks. Like differences exist in the export returns from Germany. These continued discrepancies call for an explanation from the director of the national statistical department; but we are very much afraid that one will not be forthcoming. —*Revue*, Buenos Aires.

—It is still true that an engine-driver is in prison because careless people insisted on trying to cross the track when a train was coming, but an ex-governor and a deputy who went firing revolvers at each other in a crowded street are not in prison and never have been. This is a fair example of Argentine justice. There is no law against the crimes of the powerful, and no immunity from injustice for the poor. If one be highly connected and rich he may commit any crime, and he need not be greatly troubled by the courts, while if he be poor, he can have no hope of justice. If any Argentine thinks this a slander let him examine the case and he will say no more. Let him go to our prisons, and he will find to-day those who have for years been untried, and who have no hope of the termination of a trial. He will find cases which have been waiting two, three, four years for the judge to deliver sentence, and there is no hope that it will be done for years to come. These are facts which exist to-day, to the shame and everlasting disgrace of this country. —*Buenos Aires Herald*.

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THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

A. J. LAMOUREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs, a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the commercial report and price current of the market, tables of stock quotations and sales, a summary of the daily coffee reports and all other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian trade.

(Cash invariably in advance)

Subscription: 30800 per annum for Brazil;

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All subscriptions should run with the calendar year,

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICES:—

79, Rua Sete de Setembro.

POSTOFFICE ADDRESS:— Caixa 258.

RIO DE JANEIRO, JANUARY 25th, 1898.

NOTICE.

In view of the continued fall in exchange, which reduces the currency price of this paper to less than half its original rate, the local currency subscription rate will be increased to 40800, or 800 réis per copy, on and after 1st March next.

The reappearance of yellow fever in the interior of São Paulo, and the statements published that these interior towns are in a wretched sanitary condition, ought to rouse the public authorities to an intelligent conception of the urgent needs of this country. There can be no question as to the sanitary state of all these towns. It is as bad as it can be. They are generally without drainage, and the water supply is commonly polluted by every description of filth. The total lack of cleanliness and the custom of closing the house at night without leaving proper means of ventilation, can not be otherwise than prejudicial to health. In a climate like this, great care should be exercised in ventilation, and in the removal of all decaying substances beyond dwelling-houses and their enclosures. This has been rarely done, and when we consider the poisonous emanations from these accumulations, and the pollution of the water in wells and rivers, we can not fail to see the reason why these violent fevers are continually breaking out. With the experience before them of such towns as Santos, Caupinas, Cantagallo, Macaé, and others, the people of every town ought to understand something of the danger which always threatens them, but it is to be feared that they do not. Their fears are aroused, or their sympathies stirred whenever an epidemic appears, but they forget everything as soon as the epidemic passes. What remedy can be applied to protect citizens from their own negligence, we can not say, but it is evident that something ought to be done. The medical profession can do much, but as a rule medical men in Brazil are apathetic and indifferent. The newspapers can also do much, but they rarely speak of the evil. In the meantime the danger is always present, and at brief intervals a

frightful epidemic decimates a town and alarms the whole country. Laws may be useless, merely for want of someone to enforce them, but nevertheless laws might be promulgated creating local sanitary boards, protecting rivers and other sources of potable water, and obliging householders to remove everything perilous to health beyond their habitations. The schools can do a good work in teaching the elementary principles of health, of diet, dress, exercise and hygiene. The medical profession can do invaluable work by denouncing nuisances and warning their patients against unsanitary habits. And the newspapers can likewise render a great service by the publication of simple sanitary rules, and in denouncing abuses. The health of the people, it should be remembered, is of vastly more consequence than political campaigns or international relations. It is the foundation of a strong nation, the germ of national growth. It should be the first care of every statesman and the greatest pride of every patriot.

SOMETIME ago we called attention to the arbitrary findings of the analytical laboratory of the custom-house in regard to certain imported liquors and foods. To denounce such products without good reason is to prejudice the interests of the producer as well as the merchant, and it was for this reason that we directed attention to the evident recklessness of the laboratory officials. It so happens that some of the liquors, such as Hennessy's and Martell's brandies, are known all over the world, and have a high reputation. It is certain that the proprietors of such brands would not risk their reputation by sending an inferior article to Brazil, and we may therefore conclude that the consignments condemned here were exactly similar to what is sold by these parties everywhere else. How then does it happen that these liquors are esteemed everywhere else for their excellent qualities, while they are found of bad composition here in Rio de Janeiro? We have been informed that on the day these two brands were condemned, two hundred cases of villainous stuff, a veritable poison, the importer of which confessed to a friend that he would not drink a wineglass of it for fifty guineas, were approved and dispatched without question! If this is true, then we should like to know what the customs analysts are trying to do. Are they seeking to kill us all with poisonous concoctions, or are we to believe that they do not know how to make a proper analysis? If the latter supposition is true, then it may cost the country dear, for we understand that the two great French brandy distillers have initiated proceedings for damages to their good names by the action of the customs officials in regard to their products. Then there is another matter connected with the same subject, which the minister of finance ought to set right. This is the gross injustice done to the importers. Take one of these well known marks of brandy, for instance. It has been imported into this market for years. It is known all over the world, and its makers enjoy the best of reputation. An importer brings out a shipment of this brandy, which is not only condemned in the custom-house, but the importer is fined! And why? What wrong has he done? He had every reason for believing the merchandise to be pure and good. And not only is he fined, but the duties paid are frequently held and difficulties are made to the re-exportation of the merchandise. This is not only robbing the importer, but it is a tacit confession that the custom-house is afraid to let it go where another analysis can be made. The transaction is tricky as well as arbitrary; it robs the owner of his property; it imposes an unjust and unwarranted fine; and it swindles, in many cases, the importer out of the duties paid. The government may have the power to do such things, but it has no power to alter the disreputable character of the transaction.

THE ASSASSIN MARCELLINO.

Yesterday at 4 p. m. the officers of the guard at the arsenal of war, on visiting the cell in which the assassin Marcellino Bispo de Mello was confined, found that he had committed suicide by hanging, using a sheet for that purpose. In the morning the guard found him calm and carefully dressed. The confession which he had made of course rendered it impossible for him to escape punishment and to the fear of this is attributed his desperate resolve.

It was the custom to visit the prisoner every two hours. At 2 p. m. he was seen washing his hands and wetting his hair. It was found that he had torn a sheet in half to make a cord, which he had fastened to an iron frame. He had then arranged his bed and climbed up high enough to give himself a good fall. An official examination will be made this morning.

COFFEE NOTES.

The *Journal do Commercio* of the 22nd again seeks to punish the speculators whose exaggerated estimates of the future coffee crop contribute to reduce the prices paid for that article. There is speculation in everything, and in every country, and there is even speculation on the part of the planter who reports less than half a crop even when the prospect is good for a large crop. The remedy is to establish impartial reports, which will favor neither side, and the *Journal* is rich enough to do this easily.

PROVINCIAL NOTES.

The police force of Bahia is composed of 2,150 men.
The new governor of Rio Grande assumed office yesterday.
During the past year there were 517 births, 59 marriages and 462 deaths in the town of Ito, S. Paulo.
The ex-intendant of Parã is accused of having issued 1,800 counterfeit electoral diplomas.
Up to the 24th there have been only four cases of yellow fever in Santos, three of which are recovering.

At Bahia Dr. Virgílio de Lemos has published several articles in defence of Vice-President Miguel Victorino.
It is stated that there has been established a factory for making ice from the water of the Clinchua do Vinham.

It is stated that the constabularies will vote for Campos Sales. Does this account for the release of Pinheiro Machado?

We see by a River Plate exchange that President McKinley has appointed Mr. Kavanaugh R. Kennedy as United States consul at Parã.

Up to the 19th inst. only 10,500 head of cattle had been received at the Pórtas, 54,000 against 48,000 in the corresponding period of 1892.

Complaints are made of the audacity of the thieving fraternity in Campinas. A good remedy is that of prompt and severe punishment.

Maj. Antonio Constantino Nery has written a book on the 4th expedition to Caminhos, which will be published by Pinto Barbosa & Co. of Parã.

At the Parã abattoir there were slaughtered last month 3,460 beves. There were received at the abattoir 3,341, of which 1,918 were from Ceará.

From January to November inclusive there were shipped from Parã 7,611,654 kilos of rubber, produced in that state, of the official value of \$2,370,005.798.

A letter from Rio Grande do Sul says that in that state the sending of political telegrams is restricted to the extent of being almost entirely prohibited.

The two persons arrested at Bitatues, São Paulo, for attempting to pass 500 counterfeit notes, are Manoel Joaquim Rodrigues and José Gomes Veloso, printers of Cravinhos.

The federalist party in Rio Grande do Sul has decided to adopt Campos Sales and Rosa e Silva as its candidates for the presidency and vice-presidency. The executive committee of the party has telegraphed to this effect to President Prudente de Moraes.

A Parã telegram of the 23rd says that in an election for a state senator, the republican party, which supports the President, won a great victory. This is significant, as Parã is supposed to be greatly attached to Lauro Sodré, the Glycerio candidate for the presidency, who was governor of that state.

Some German journalists of São Paulo made a visit to the new Swiss colony at Paul, near Campinas, a few days ago, and found everything going on well. The colonists were satisfied. They afterwards visited some large plantations and then returned to São Paulo much pleased with their excursion.

According to a Santos telegram the young Paulista doctor, that is a college graduate, who wounded a companion with a razor at the Jockey Club, has succeeded in making his escape on board the *Itá* in steam-ship *Washington*, which left Santos for Buenos Aires on the 20th inst. The young man of education and good breeding fled with razors in São Paulo.

Yellow fever broke out in the town of Ribeirão Bonito, São Paulo, early in December, but no attention was paid to it, and the poor frequently took to trouble to call in medical assistance. Finally its severity aroused attention, and its true character was then discovered. On the 12th inst. there were three deaths under treatment. A correspondent of the *Commercio* complains of the complete lack of sanitary precautions in the town.

In the 2nd half year of 1892 there were sent to 24 municipal districts of the state of Rio de Janeiro 1,419 immigrants.

The following is a statement of the emigration from Ceará from Jan. 1, 1893, to Dec. 31, 1892, on steamers of the Companhia Lloyd Brasileiro:

	To southern ports	To northern ports	Total
1893.....	1,795	7,389	9,184
1894.....	1,480	4,413	5,893
1895.....	2,039	9,092	11,131
1896.....	1,804	9,686	11,490
1897.....	1,787	7,312	9,099
	9,045	37,922	46,967

S. PAULO FACTS AND FANCIES.

Mrs. Laurier, wife of Mr. Louis Laurier, of Santos and S. Paulo, died in this city of typhoid fever on Sunday morning last, and was interred at the Protestant cemetery in the Consolidação on the same afternoon. Mr. Laurier will have the sympathy of his numerous friends in his sad bereavement.

There has been a discussion in the press here on the ever interesting subject of the present financial crisis. Dr. Costa Machado opened it with a letter published in the columns of the *Estado de S. Paulo* of the 9th inst., under the heading "O grande problema." After a general review of the situation which he regards as having been brought about by the complete abolition of slavery, the policy of heavy borrowings begun under the monarchy and continued under the republic, and the enormous issues of paper money, he proposes as a remedy the raising of a loan of 200,000,000 on security such as the railways and customs revenues, for the purpose of the redemption, at a fixed exchange of 90¢, of 600,000,000 of paper money.

He admits the right of the note holder to the face value of the note at par, but sets against it that of the government to tax the people to whatever extent may be necessary in order to liquidate the national obligations. "Desperate diseases require desperate remedies," he argues; and such an operation would, in his view, be merely equal to that of taking a sum of money out of one of the people's pockets and putting it into the other. Well, so long as both the pockets referred to belong to the same coat, there can be no reasonable objection.

The *Estado*, in a brace of leading articles, dismisses this plan as imprudent, and professes to find the solution of our difficulties in the development of the agricultural and pastoral resources of the country to such an extent as will enable home to take the place of imported products, and eventually to swell the list of exports. This plan seems open to the objection that while the grass is growing the steved is starving. Dr. Machado returns to the charge, suggesting a practically prohibitive tariff on home imported products as can be raised at home.

Whatever may be the merits of such proposals, it is at any rate good to see that the gravity of the crisis is at length being thoroughly appreciated, and the necessity for taking radical steps to deal with it recognized and discussed. Such letters and articles as those above referred to tend to interest and inform the public mind, and to prepare it to make, when the time arrives, the necessary sacrifices not only in money, but in "brios."

In England, when cases arise in connection with labor, trade, and other matters of public importance where information and guidance are required for determining the best course to be pursued, it is usual to appoint a special parliamentary commission, which takes the testimony of experts, and representative men of all classes, acquainted with the subject to be examined, systematically institutes enquiry in every possible direction, and by all practicable means, and then, having exhausted the sources of enlightenment at command, embodies the results of its labors, together with its recommendations, in a report. This report is handed in to the executive government, and a bill, drafted more or less in accordance with its findings, presented to parliament. Whether such a process would be likely to find favor with Brazilians is doubtful; republicans, and especially Latin republicans, being notoriously partial to one-man government.

As things are going it would seem as if we were likely to witness the reduction of our federal system, at least from a financial point of view. No one pretends that the individual states—the federal units—are either bankrupt or in danger of becoming so. Minas for instance has loose cash sufficient to enable it to indulge in the luxury of a brand new capital. S. Paulo has funds wherewith to buy such toys as for instance a bridge across the Tietê, price 1,500,000; and such is this state's vigorous constitution that it can not only go on supporting its mob of illustrious doctors and other sons and daughters of the horse leech, now and ever sucking at it, but is even said to contemplate the idea of further relieving its plethora of money by emptying it by beggars into the Vazas. Yet no mention is made of a general average. Can the Union become bankrupt while the states remain solvent and even rich? If so, then this proud and braggart country should frankly take the name and style of the United States of Brazil Loan Company, Limited.

»DISAGREABLE SCENE.« (111)

Under the above heading the papers here tell of an occurrence which took place in one of the saloons of the Jockey Club in this city on the evening of the 14th inst., in which Dr. Esgardo de Almeida Prado inflected, with a razor, the following wounds on Dr. Elias de Camargo Noves: one 25 cm. long across the back; another in the upper part of the left thigh, 6 cm. long; two in the left arm of which one was about 3, the other 10 cm. in length; one on the top of the head 6 cm.; another smaller, in the throat, and finally one of 6 cm. in the jaw. This last was considered a serious wound by the surgeons. It is stated that the reason for this slight unpleasantness, this little trifling "tiff," was the necessity the aggressor felt himself under of avenging some affront put upon his father by Dr. Elias de Noves, who on the present occasion is said to have been wholly unarmed. Dr. Esgardo Prado has been allowed to run away to the River Plate.

This affair calls forth a letter addressed to "Euphonia" in the *Estado*, in which a writer signing himself "J" appeals to the police to "act with energy and vigilance," so long as the fine flower—the fine flower!—of our youth declines to meet its ways, and leave us in peace. To this "Euphonia" rejoins, leaving, as he says, other evil-doers on one side for the moment, and directing his attention to the "son of a rowdy" recruited from the ranks of our elegant youth, who consider themselves protected from the action of the law by the positions of their fathers, and who, in short, are to be found playing up the Devil's Delight, after midnight, in the beer saloons, in theatre gardens, in suburban pleasure houses like the Floresta, and permeating the streets of the city at untimely hours. "And," he goes on, "whenever the police appear on the scene, their action is nullified by the silence with which quiet people take themselves off, afraid of the elegant and threatening razor hidden in the pockets of young men of our so-called aristocracy."

Without following "Euphonia" into the details he gives regarding certain outrages committed by these members of our "fin flor," in which, to use his own words, "the coarse, cruel razor, the swordstick, and the dagger have played a brilliant part," I give his summing-up on the matter. He calls the attention of the chief of police to the fact that "all that was bad in Rio de Janeiro invading S. Paulo; ruffians, capangas, rogues, and scoundrels, in short, all that is bad in our nation," and he concludes, "that the authorities commit violence in order that the safety of the individual may be a reality, every healthy-minded member of society will lend his support to such extreme action."

This would be very good if the healthy-minded M. O. S. could safely repose untroubled confidence in individual policemen, or groups of policemen. But policemen are unfortunately sometimes only too "healthy-minded" when the application of violence is concerned. On "Euphonia's" own showing, these are scarcely times for peaceable citizens to be out in the streets in the small hours unarmed. And yet, when, pressed, theatre-goers, and others whose pleasure or necessity takes out at such hours, would be apt to have a bad time of it, if found in the streets after midnight with revolvers or sword canes in their possession, while, on the other hand, if they chanced to be assaulted by a gang of young ruffians recruited from the "fin flor," he would be just as badly off for want of such means of defence. Of course all such dangers might be easily avoided by staying at home and going to bed at tea. But in that case where is your liberty?

The root of the whole evil is that rottenness and most ignominious of delusions, the so-called abolition of capital punishment. Capital punishment cannot be abolished. It is an integral part of the social economy. What is commonly, and fallaciously, termed its abolition merely means its transfer from the hands of the state to those of the individual. It means that every rough, assassin, and thief, whether recruited from the ranks of the "fin flor," or not, carries the life of the peaceable citizen in his cowardly hand.

The Whip and the Gallows are the bulwarks of civilization and social order. We have ruffians in England, in plenty, as ferocious, and more physically formidable than any in Brazil, but the moment the dogs show their teeth the whip is ready for them. The whip, the treadmill, the chain gang, and the gallows, are the machinery behind that civil and obliging policeman with the blue coat, and especially the white glove, which Brazilian visitors to London so much admire as, raised majestically aloft, it controls the roaring tide of traffic round the Bank, or Temple Bar.

Some of your readers may remember the assault of that rough who flourished for a few brief but brilliant months in Liverpool, under the name of the High Rip Gang. They did not by any means belong to the "fin flor da nossa sociedade"—rather other,—to use a phrase of Carlyle's—but their objects were much the same as those alluded to in "Euphonia's" letter. They too, used the elegant razor, the knife, and the bludgeon, often in mere light-heartedness and gaiety of spirit, but occasionally for plunder.

All want well until, one day, Came, a strange fish, in the bay.
(I alter the pun-tation for the sake of the pun.) Mr. Justice Day, in due course, came

round on circuit. He visited the haunts, and acquainted himself with the habits of the High Rip Gang.

"But oh, but oh,
The High Rips did not know!"

When a number of the members of this amiable Band of Hope were brought before him, Mr. Justice Day, being fully instructed as to the malady was able to prescribe for them in accordance with the severity of their symptoms. *O desígnio*, Day of wrath, what a handling he gave them! Six months with hard labor, twelve months with hard labor, three months with hard labor, but always to the tune of the merry cat-o'-nine-tails! Fifty lashes, thirty lashes, twenty lashes, as a kind of appetizer before entering gaol—a sherry and bitters before their woful dinner—twenty, thirty, fifty lashes cut their backs to ribbons immediately before leaving.

Their term expired, out they came to their terror-stricken chums, their mouths down at the corners, their bodies striped like a zebra, all of them, to seek comfort in the bosoms of their favorite gin-mills, and make the hair of their associates stand on end with the narration of the horrors which had befallen them. Mr. Justice Day blew out the High Rip Gang as a man blows out a candle.

Some say the whip and the gallows are "not suited to the genius of the Brazilian people." I reverse this statement. I do not think so ill of the Brazilian people. I believe they are especially suited to the genius of them, and of all other peoples with a taste for safe blood-shedding and back stabbing, and to whom mimic fair play is unknown. But if, indeed, they be not, then order and justice are not suited to their genius either. Let the whip and the gallows have a trial. I warrant you the first "swish" of the cat-o'-nine-tails would cheer up the price of razors across the *fin flor* of S. Paulo, and the first flutter of the black flag at a sergeant's march shorten the daily list of distasteful murders by the length of the linguist's rope!

NICHOLAS DEWDROP.

S. Paulo, 20th January.

RAILROAD NOTES.

The receipts of the Estrada de Ferro de Banguera in Parã amounted last year to \$52,866,238 and the expenses to \$52,524,572.

The report of negotiators is for the sale of a railway in S. Paulo to English capitalists is again in circulation. The price mentioned is \$2,000,000.

By the former schedule of freight rates on the Central railway it cost 15550 to ship 56 bags of coffee from the station of Souza Aguiar to Rio de Janeiro. By the present schedule it costs 215860.

The new Leopoldina company will have a local directory in this city, composed of three Brazilians. One of these will be Barão do Rio Branco, who will be empowered to represent the company.

The *Journal* is informed that Sr. Urbano de Faria, who left for Europe on the 20th, is commissioned by the new Chapin company to close negotiations for capital begun in Frankfurt, by Dr. Magalhães Castro.

The work on the mountain section of the São Paulo railway, now line, is said to be well advanced. At present 3,800 men are employed on this work. It is said that there will be 16 tunnels on this section of the road.

Complaint is made of a new regulation which prevents the shipment of Petropolis butter and cheese by the evening train. The new managers will of course do everything they can to protect the interests of their patrons.

The reported revival of negotiations for the sale of one of the São Paulo railways, remind us of the circumstance that such a sale was fully arranged for one of these railways last year, when the company's representative suddenly resolved to go to a German watering place before signing the documents. When he returned, a change had shifted, and then he wanted the London Syndicate to stand the loss, which it refused to do.

SHIPPING NOTES.

The steamer *Oriente*, whose collision with the *Maranhão* we mentioned in our last issue, was valued at 700,000, being insured for only 100,000. The cargo was valued at 200,000.

In the month of December 40 steamers arrived at the port of Victoria. Of these steamers one was from Havre, one from Genoa, one from Lisbon and the others from Brazilian ports.

It was reported in Buenos Aires that Brazil is negotiating for the sale to Chile of the ironclads and cruisers under construction in Europe. It is amusing to see how suspicious our neighbors are.

A telegram from Montevideo on the 17th announced that the frigorific steamer *Jupiter* had run aground at Santa Lman, on the Truguayan coast. The steamer was considered to be in a perilous position.

After having made the needed repairs to her machinery, the American steamer *City of Columbia* left port on the morning of the 22nd. It was expected that the steamer would call at Montevideo, but she cleared for Valparaíso. Her Klondike passengers had a warm time of it here in Rio de Janeiro, but they will probably think of us, with a better appreciation of our climate, twelve months hence—always provided, of course, that they reach their arctic destination.

—A Montevideo telegram of the 24th says that all attempts to float the *Jupites* have failed.

—It was stated by the morning papers of the 19th that the government had also decided to sell the torpedo-crises *Tamoyo* now constructing at Kiel, Germany. Of the numerous vessels ordered by Floriano Peixoto, only three will be received—the cruiser *Almirante Barroso*, already here, the torpedo cruiser *Tupy*, now on the way out, and the cruiser *Amazonas*, nearly finished.

LOCAL NOTES

—There were two deaths from yellow fever on the 18th inst.

—At the races of the Turf Club yesterday the audience is said to have been small.

—After an intensely hot spell, this city was visited by a welcome rain-storm on Wednesday and Thursday last.

—It is stated that masquerades will not be permitted by the police to appear on the streets in this city during carnival.

—If there were only 34 passengers on the steamer *Cy Columbia*, how did the reporter of the *Jornal do Brazil* manage to see 45?

—At the rate at which the as-faulted streets are being repaved, we shall see them in a possible condition, perhaps, before the year closes.

—The government is said to have issued orders for Gen. Bacellar and Isidoro Fernandes to come from the state of Rio Grande do Sul to this city.

—The few cases of yellow fever recently noted should remind the authorities of the necessity of keeping the city clean and the water supply abundant.

—Deputy Torquato Moreira protests against being implicated in the murder of the minister of war. He says that he will come to Rio de Janeiro soon and crush the slander.

—On last Saturday an infant 11 months old fell from a 2nd-floor window of a house on Rua da Misericórdia. Fortunately an awning broke the fall and the child escaped with very slight injury.

—If President Prudente de Moraes, after having broken with Glycerio, continues to be controlled by Quintino and Julio de Castilhos, how can he expect the confidence and support of the conservative classes?

—The government is proposing to station the 12th battalion in the old Gloria market building. It would perhaps be better to destroy the old nest, as it can never be anything better than a focus of infection.

—It is stated that Dr. Alberto de Carvalho has been retained by the family of Col. Gentil de Castro for the civil suit that is to be brought against the criminals who murdered this gentleman and stole or destroyed his property.

—During the month of December the Copacabana beriberi hospital had the following movement: remaining from November 83, entered during December 75, discharged as cured 57, died 7, under treatment January 1st, 94.

—According to the opinion of the solicitor of the republic, the case of the murder of the minister of war belongs to the jurisdiction of the local courts; but Dr. Godefrido Cunha, judge of the federal court, claims jurisdiction in the matter. The question, it is stated, will be carried to the Supreme Court.

—According to the daily mortality reports there were 6 deaths from yellow fever in this city during the first half of this month, 14 from pernicious fever and 31 from other fevers. The total number of deaths, from all causes, was 577, which shows the very low annual average, for Rio, of about 23.5 per thousand.

—The government has cancelled the concession of military honors granted by the dictator to Senator João Cordeiro, Deputy Thomaz Delphino, Ruchides Bernardino de Moura, Deputy Arthur Peixoto, Francisco Ferreira da Rosa, Eduardo Salomone, Umberto Manoel Pacheco (pharmacist), Turbide Esteves, and Amalbal Esteves.

—José Manoel de Azevedo, Visconde de S. Fins, committed suicide yesterday by jumping from a ferryboat into the bay. He had made and lost two or three fortunes and was still rich, but was greatly harassed by business annoyances. He left a note saying that he committed suicide in order to avoid committing an assassination.

—A telegram from London announces the death yesterday morning in London of Major Alexander Wood, managing director of the Western and Brazilian Telegraph Co. The deceased had occupied this responsible position for 25 years, and resided here in Rio de Janeiro for some time while the cable was being laid and the business established.

—The report of the 2nd promoter publico, Dr. Moraes Sarmento Jr., on the evidence taken in the Gentil de Castro assassination case, finds all the accused parties responsible under the law, and that they shall be held for trial. Three of them are also indicted for threatening Visconde de Ouro Preto with death. The indictment is dated the 17th inst.

—The old friends of Mr. William Campbell will deeply regret the death of this citizen, which occurred at the Strangers' Hospital in this city on the 12th inst. Mr. Campbell was for many years established in business in Pernambuco. He afterwards came to this city where he became interested in all the local interests of the English colony and won for himself many devoted friends. At the time of his death he was in the employ of Messrs. Hird, Raul & Co., having been previously and for many years in the employ of Messrs. Fonseca Machado & Irmao.

—The new papal intermunicio, Monsignor Macchi, arrived here on Saturday last on the French packet *Servio* from Buenos Aires.

—On the 17th inst. the federal district attorney, Dr. Esmeraldino Bandeira, reported that in his opinion the federal courts are incompetent to take cognizance of the assassination of Marshal Bittencourt and the murder of the President's life. The supreme court will now be called upon to decide which of the two courts in question is charged with the trial of such cases.

—Seized with the gift of prophecy, the *Putz* predicts that not over twenty years will have elapsed before Marshal Floriano Peixoto will be considered responsible for the greater part of the misfortunes that have recently befallen Brazil. If the *Putz* will take the trouble of sounding public opinion, it will discover that it is unnecessary to wait so long, and, if it will take the additional trouble of investigating facts, it will moreover discover that public opinion is not far from being right. It is something, however, for the *Putz* to make such an admission, considering the blind support it gave the dictator.

—It is stated that Senator Pinheiro Machado has addressed a letter to Admiral Pinto da Luz, thanking the officers of the ironclad *Riachuelo* for the courtesy with which they invariably treated him while he was a prisoner on board that vessel. He is also said to have expressed his gratitude to Admiral Marques Guimarães, inspector of the navy yard. The treatment thus received by this ferocious castillista is in striking contrast with that received by his adversaries under the government of his leader Marshal Floriano Peixoto. It will, we think, be generally acknowledged that the lesson given by those gallant naval officers in regard to what is due to political prisoners, was certainly very much needed.

—In the twenty simultaneous matches played at the chess club by Mr. Sittenfeld he won 16 and lost 2, the other two being stale mates. Singularly enough the two successful local players were the president of the club Dr. Carlos Martins, son of the distinguished leader of the Rio Grande federalists, Comptroller Silveira Martins, and Senator Raimundo Baralho, a prominent castillista. The latter won in consequence of an oversight which deprived Mr. Sittenfeld of his queen. Dr. Carlos Martins' match with Mr. Sittenfeld was quite interesting and consisted of 32 moves by each player. At the 28th move Dr. Carlos Martins checked his adversary's king and, following up his attack, continued to check him at every move until he finally checkmated him at the 32nd.

—The complimentary manifestation to Mr. Jones Schofield, manager of the Manufacture Fluminense cotton factory at Barreto, Niemeyer, on the 3rd inst., which we were unable to attend personally, resulted in a very pleasant success. It was organized by the operatives, who presented Mr. Schofield with an oil portrait of himself. Several representatives of the press were present. At 4 p. m. the operatives and invited guests went from the factory to Mr. Schofield's house, accompanied by a band of music, where one of the operatives, Mr. Gustavo Dutra, in behalf of his companions, presented the portrait. Other operatives also spoke, one of them offering Mrs. Schofield a beautiful wreath of artificial flowers. Mr. Schofield then responded, thanking the operatives for their generous appreciation of his services. Lunch was then served and the operatives and their friends, together with many invited guests, were pleasantly entertained until a late hour.

—Before striking up the Brazilian congress imposed an income tax, for the first time in the history of the country, and it also raised several of the customs duties. The facts are eloquent as showing how much the power of the present administration has increased, and how it has become alive to the necessity for increasing the revenue. Next March the election of President will take place, and those in the best position to judge hope that the President will be re-elected. We trust the hope will be realized, for the President has done well, and his increased popularity and influence will enable him in the future to do still better. —*The Statist*, Dec. 18.

—Our usually well-informed contemporary is very much astir in this item. The proposed income tax did not pass and is therefore not a law. And President Prudente de Moraes is not a candidate for re-election. The candidate favored by the President is Dr. Campos Sales, of São Paulo.

—A curious incident occurred in the suburb of Botafogo on the night of the 15th inst., which deserves a word of comment. As a gentleman left the residence of his brother-in-law in Rua Comte Irajá about 11 p. m., he encountered three respectively dressed young men on the walk, who had been waiting some two hours or more. Some words were exchanged, and then the group fell upon him and gave him a severe beating. He returned to the house he had just left to dress his wounds, and then started out again, accompanied by his brother-in-law and another friend. They walked to the Voluntários da Pátria and saw nothing of the three aggressors. The two gentlemen then retraced their steps, and just before reaching their gate they were suddenly attacked by the same three men. Being Britishers, they fought it out and compelled the three to retreat. One of the aggressors was considerably bruised. On leaving the matter to them that he knew their assailants, as they had lately assaulted another man in the same manner, but he could do nothing as there were no witnesses to the assault. This is strange justice, surely.

—A funeral service for the late Frank Arthur Webb, accountant of the London and River Plate Bank, of this city, was celebrated at the English Church on Sunday last. His companions in the bank and a large number of friends were present.

—No matter how hard up we all are, the lottery flourishes and the ticket vendors ever grow more numerous. Their raucous voices fill the quays, and their dirty, ragged personalities are everywhere to be seen. To the stranger landing here, the lottery appears to be the principal business of the country. Are Brazilians of the better classes content with this?

BRITISH SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY.

The annual meeting of shareholders and subscribers of the British Subscription Library was held at the library rooms on Saturday last. Although there have been some criticisms of the Committee, there was a very limited attendance. The accounts, which show the financial condition of the library to be most favorable, were passed, and it was then proposed to re-elect the Committee for the next year. This the latter declined to accept until the subject of recent criticisms has been fully considered by the subscribers. An adjourned meeting was then called for Thursday, January 27th, at the same hour and place, for the election of a new Committee.

"O QUE DEZ DE NOS."

The *Jornal do Commercio* of the 18th gives the following curious and up to a certain point true idea of the United States, framed by a gentleman of good judgment (*carolinhense*) who visited that country as a delegate to the Chicago exposition. "O que dez de nos," as the headline runs when a foreign opinion is quoted, will be interesting reading in Philadelphia and Chicago. The *Jornal's* *estímulo* says:

America is a land compared with which Europe is only a peninsula. The United States compose a country compared with which the kingdoms of Europe are pignions.

America is the land of incalculable dimensions and distances, the land of dollars and of electricity, the land where the fields (*prados*) are more extensive, the rivers larger, the water fall deeper, the bridges longer, the trains faster and the accidents more terrible than in any other country of the world.

It is a land where a simple railway disaster—every day one happens—costs more lives than in Europe in a whole year.

It is a land in which the houses are higher, the criminals more numerous, the rich richer, the poor poorer, the millions larger, the thieves bolder, the assassins more daring, the educated more scurvy, false teeth more abundant, the waists smaller, the diseases more deadly, corruption more general, the summers hotter, the winters colder, the fires more destructive (*duraduras*—literally, more lasting) the ice thicker, the time more precious, the men more nervous than in any other country of Europe. The young older, the old are younger, the whites yellower than in any other region of the world.

MARRIED.

GUILM—BUSSMEYER.—In this city, on the 5th inst., JOHN B. B. GUILM to STILLA, second daughter of Hugo Bussmeyer.

DIED.

ROMERO-SOUSA.—In Edinburgh, Scotland, on the 2nd of December, at the residence of her brother-in-law, Duquesne Harper, Esq., MARY ROMERO-SOUSA, late of Rio de Janeiro.

BUSINESS NOTES

—A new wall paper factory was inaugurated in Rua Visconde do Rio Branco on the 22nd inst.

—The hundredth society of barbers and hair-cutters of this city has a patrimony of 107,000 invested in apples.

—The defalcations of the clerk Paul Cirne from the Companhia Stearica Dumont, of São Paulo, are said to aggregate 500,000.

—The navy department has requested the department of finance to pay 31,600 francs to Messrs. Haupt, Biehn & Co. for 400 Mause carlines.

—As the stamp tax on receipts, etc., has been raised to 300 reis, orders have been given at the mint to "coin" stamps of that denomination.

—The contractor who supplies the city of Manaus with fresh beef, has asked for permission to raise the price from 15500 to 15800 per kilo.

—According to a Washington telegram the heirs of a suicide can not compel the payment of a life insurance.

—For the market of the city of Ceará there were slaughtered last year 16,270 heaves, 2,310 hogs and 490 sheep, against 16,879 heaves, 2,715 hogs and 610 sheep in 1896.

—The homage to Gmüls de Leopoldina, beneficent association of this city has a patrimony of 36,000. What the association does by way of "homage" we do not know.

—The Banco de S. Carlos, of S. Carlos, São Paulo, is paying a dividend for the last half-year at the rate of 12 per cent. a year. This should be an encouragement for the creation of banks in other small towns.

—At Bahia the Associação Commercial has sent to the inspector of customs a memorial in which merchants of that city complain of delays in the discharge of vessels and of constantly recurring thefts of merchandise.

—Interruptions in the Western and Brazilian cables between Ceará and Maranhão, and between Maranhão and Pará, are announced.

—The Associação Commercial of this city has again addressed the minister of finance in regard to the new regulations affecting foreign insurance companies. The matter is one which ought to be settled without delay.

—The Banco Nacional holds 50 shares in the newspaper *República*, which was founded by Deputy Glycerio to promote the interests of his party. As the paper is suspended, these shares could probably be purchased for a very small amount.

—The printing of the friction match stamps was begun at the Imprensa Nacional on the 20th, and it is expected that enough will be prepared for distribution before the end of the month. Let us hope that the cost of the stamps will not exceed the tax itself, as was the case with the low value stamps for the tobacco tax.

—Under the reorganization scheme of the Banco Nacional, the shares of the old bank will be exchanged for municipal bonds at the Banco de Depósitos e Descontos up to the 31st inst. The bank shares are rated at 70¢ and the bonds at 150¢. The dissatisfied shareholders are thus placed in the position of being obliged to accept reorganization with a loss of 130¢ per share or accept municipal bonds for the old depreciated shares.

—The British Bank of South America, Limited, notifies that Mr. Matthew George Megaw retires to be on the board on the 31st inst., and that Mr. Hugh Kinsman Brodie has been appointed to the vacancy. Mr. Charles Carrington (managing director) resigns his management, retaining his seat at the board. Mr. Alexander Dickson (managing director) becomes manager, Mr. Henry Kinsler Gregory (secretary) becomes sub-manager, and Mr. Herbert Hollis secretary. —*Financial News*, Dec. 30.

—At the adjourned meeting of the shareholders of the Banco Nacional on 1st Wednesday, it was decided to reorganize the bank. In payment of the new shares, the old shares, whose present nominal value is 200¢ each, will be received at the rate of 70¢. Shareholders who object to this may exchange their shares valued at the said rate of 70¢ for municipal bonds valued at 150¢ each, that is, in this transaction 15 old shares of the bank may be exchanged for 7 municipal bonds. The new board of directors of the bank is composed of Messrs. George Zangarnassino, representative of the French shareholders, Luiz da Rocha Miranda and Ruyinaldo de Castro Moya.

FINANCIAL NOTES

—At Maranhão the customs receipts amounted in 1897 to 5,976,056\$94, against 5,976,351\$87 in 1896.

—During the half year ended December 31 the receipts of the treasury of the state of Pará amounted to 11,011,575\$319 and the disbursements to 7,350,170\$685.

—The governor of the state of Minas Gerais has issued a decree guaranteeing 7 per cent interest on a loan of 600,000 for the municipal government of Juiz de Fora.

—The executive has issued a decree opening a supplementary credit of 308,252\$694 for the caixa da amortização to pay an excess in the cost of notes and in signing them.

—The governor of Paraná has failed in placing a loan for 3,000,000\$ so he has decreed an emission of 1,000,000\$ at 94 interest 7 per cent, realizable in 50 months by monthly drawings. We would call Mr. Coura's attention to this operation.

—A Montevideo telegram of the 21st says that telegrams have been received there concerning the sale of three Brazilian naval vessels under construction in Europe to Japan. The cruiser *Albatroz* was sold for £370,000. It is said that Spain wished to buy them, but was obliged to give it up as Brazil exacted cash down.

—The Bahia economist, Luiz Targinio predicts that the customs receipts during the first four months of the present year will not exceed two thirds of what they were in the corresponding months of 1897. In the following months there will, he thinks, be some improvement, followed by another decline. Exchange, he believes, will continue to fall and within a year will reach 60 per \$1000.

—In its issue of the 18th, the *Deutsche Zeitung*, of São Paulo, under the heading "Financial Crash," reviews at length the financial difficulties of the country and attributes the poor standing of Brazil in the European money markets to the yearly deficit in the budget, and says that the low exchange is a result of a political anarchy of the Jacobins. It ought not to be, the *Zeitung* says, a surprise to its creditors, if they receive the payment of interest on its loan. The treasurer for the exchequer, our contemporary believes, is the imposition of taxes on the products of the interior industries not bearing taxes at the present time and an increase on commodities already taxed. Some of the imposts suggested are: cotton, 30 reis per metre; gingham, 50 to 60 reis per metre; and on each piece of sole leather, 25 c. —*etc.* — continues the *Zeitung*, if this fails to make up the deficit, why then it becomes essential for the country to establish an income tax; for only by the application of energetic tax laws will it be possible for us to extract ourselves from the financial mire into which we have been precipitated by rotten political and financial lethargy.

COMMERCIAL

750	Leopoldina R. R.	7	500
3927	do	7	500
	S. Lazaro, mill.	8	500
	JANUARY 19.		
25	Aplices, ss	830	000
1,200	1 do	83	
1	do	908	
4	do	906	
19	do	905	
45	do	905	
1190	Gold 60	938	

60	Apollon, <i>St.</i>	815.00
48	do	814
52	do	815
12	do	815
10	do 4 th	0.08
18	do 1 st	7.95
10	do 2 nd	8.84
25	deb. I. Ephraim R. R., 1005	10.50
7	" Sumacuna R. R.,	51
40	Commercial	205
100	Contractor	7
10	National	68
40	Republica	115.50
297	do	150
337	do	131.50
20	M ^{rs.} Hanou	8
10	Leopoldina R.	8.750
10	do	8.500
40	Jardin Botanic, trans	100
5	S. Lazaro, mill.	10

Receipts for the past week were 64,978 bags, against 9,939 bags for the preceding week and 59,374 bags for the week before. In transit the receipts were 519 bags coastwise.

Rio de Janeiro

8,400 bbls. }


le (str).....	Leixões	23 Dec.
le of Eriu.....	Hamburg	18 Dec.
laquim.....	Hamburg	17 Nov.
lius Palm.....	Brunswick	—
no (str).....	Boulogne	29 Dec.

no (str),	Boulogne	29 Dec.
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..... 17 254

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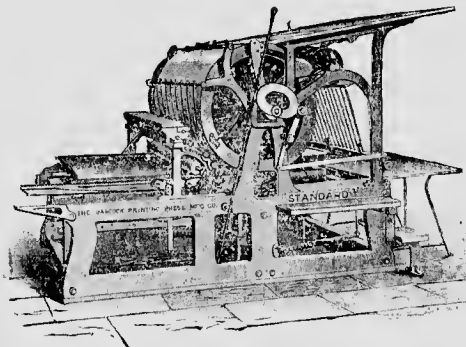
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